AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 18, para. 3, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

Preform 4 was a sphere manufactured by grinding to a diameter of 1.6 mm an optical glass material of nd=1.80610, ν d=40.73, a yield temperature of 600°C, and a transition point temperature of 560°C. Preform 4 was placed at room temperature on the molding surface of a lower mold 2 with a molding surface radius of curvature of 0.67 mm. Next, upper mold 1 and sleeve 3 were set. A space 11 was formed between lower mold 2 and preform ~~3~~ 4, with the maximum height in the center being 14 micrometers. In Fig. 1, the size of the space has been exaggerated for description. The upper mold, lower mold, and sleeve were made of SiC, and a DLC film was applied as a mold separation film on the molding surfaces.

Page 18, para. 4, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

Lower mold ~~3~~ 2 was held in advance by lower mold heating member 6. Lower mold heating member 6 was attached with bolts to lower mold pressing member 8. Lower mold pressing member 8 was connected to a motor, not shown, and was moved vertically and pressed against the preform by the motor.

Page 23, first full para. 5, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

Preform 4 was a sphere that was manufactured by grinding to a diameter of 2.0 mm an optical glass material with nd=1.73077, ν d=40.50, a yield temperature of 535°C, and a transition point temperature of 500°C. Space, not shown, was formed between preform ~~3~~ 4 and upper mold 1. The maximum height of this space was 10 micrometers. The maximum height of the space 11 formed between preform ~~3~~ 4 and lower mold 2 was 20 micrometers.

Page 26, first full para. 1, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

When the above-described lifting rate of the upper mold was maintained from the start of pressing of the preform to a distance of only 29 micrometers, the gas in the space formed between the preform and the lower mold did not completely discharge. In this case, when the lifting rate of the upper mold was maintained to a distance of the lower mold of 30 micrometers, the sum of the heights of existing spaces 11 ~~and 12~~, the gas in the space was discharged.

Page 28, first full para. 1, please replace with the following amended paragraph:

The preform was a sphere that was manufactured by grinding to a diameter of 2.0 mm an optical glass material with nd=1.69350, ν d=53.20, a yield temperature of 560°C, and a transition point temperature of 520°C. A space, not shown, was formed between preform ~~3~~ 4 and upper mold 1. The maximum height of this space was 8 micrometers. The maximum height of space 11 formed between preform 3 and lower mold 2 was 16 micrometers.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

Please replace the Abstract of Disclosure as follows:

A method of press molding optical elements comprising supplying a glass material, at a temperature of less than a temperature at which the glass material exhibits a viscosity of 10^{11} poises, between an upper mold and a lower mold. Then heating the supplied glass material by thermal conduction by means of contact with the upper mold or lower mold on the side on which a space is formed. Moving at least one of the upper mold and the lower mold at an average moving rate of less than or equal to 10 mm/min at least for a distance h micrometers after the glass material becomes in contact with the upper mold and the lower mold, when a temperature of the pressing mold is at a predetermined temperature T2 within a range in which the glass material exhibits a viscosity of from $10^{7.1}$ to $1\ 0^{10.5}$ poises, wherein a maximum height of the space in the direction of the moving of the movable mold is denoted as h micrometers.